

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 FBIE-00 USSS-00 DHA-02

EB-07 COME-00 /080 W

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O 291504Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2184

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2349

FOR A/CCT

USIA FOR IOP,ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC VE

SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING PRESS REACTTION

1. SUNDAY'S CARACAS AMERS GIVE KIDNAPPING HEAVY FRONT PAGE TREATMENT, WITH INTERIOR PAGES FILLED WITH PHOTOS OF NIEHOUS RESIDENCE
PRESS CONFERENCE OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR LEPAGE, PHOTOS OF FAMILY, AND BACKGROUNDEERS ON HISTORY OF POLITICAL KIDNAPPING VENEZUELA.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY JOURNAL HAS DOUBLE DECK BANNER HEADLINE: "KIDNAPPERS SAY: TRIAL, NO RANSOM FOR NEIHOUS... EXECUTION THREATENED". ACCORDING TO STORY, SEVEN PAGE COMMUNIQUE WAS SENT TO DISIP, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND A REPORTER FOR CARACAS NEWSPAPER EL NACIONAL. STORY STATES "SPEAKING WITH REPORTERS AFTER HIS MEETING AT THE NEIHOUS HOME, (EL NACIONAL'S) CARIAS SAID THE DOCUMENT CONTENDED THAT THE
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AMERICAN EXECUTIVE WAS KIDNAPPED FOR BEING AN "AGENT OF THE

MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES,' AND THAT HE WAS TO BE TRIED FOR 'ACTS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ESPIONAGE IN THE COUNTRY.' THE EL NACIONAL REPORTED QUALIFIED THE KIDNAPPING AS 'AN EMINENTLY POLITICAL ACT,' AND NOTED THAT THE SEVEN PAGE DOCUMENT WAS DEVOTED TO CONDEMNING THE PRESENCE OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN VENEZUELA."

3. EL UNIVERSAL CARRIES HEADLINE SIMILAR TO DAILY JOURNAL'S WITH SUBHEADS READING: "IN A MESSAGE SENT TO THE MEDIA, NIEHOUS IS ACCUSED OF INTERFERING IN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND AS A RESULT, WILL FACE TRIAL. THE LONG DOCUMENT DENOUNCED A PRESUMED REPRESSIVE PLAN AGAINST THE MASSES. IT IS SIGNED BY 'THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND OPERATION ARGIMIRO GABALDON.'" STORY QUOTES THE NOTE SENT TO THE POLICE AS SAYING: "WE ARE INFORMING PUBLIC OPINION THAT WILLIAM NIEHOUS IS BEING INTERROGATED AS PART OF THE TRIAL TO WHICH HE IS BEING SUBMITTED. WE DENOUNCE BEFORE THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE A VAST REPRESSIVE PLAN BEING CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE VENEZUELAN MASSES, AS EXPRESSED IN THE DAILY ECONOMIC REPRESSION AS EVIDENCED IN IN THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, THE APPLICATION OF POLICE MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARDS HARRASSING THE POPULAR SECTORS FIGHTING FOR THEIR MOST BASIC RIGHTS... THIS IS WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING WITH THE INTENSE REPRESSION AGAINST THE STUDENTS." BACK ECTION DEVOTES FIRST AND LAST PAGES TO COVERAGE, WITH VARIOUS PHOTOS. OVER PIECE ON LEPAGE'S PRESS CONFERENCE, PAPER HEADLINES: "THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE OWNES ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE--SAYS OCTAVIO LEPAGE." STORY POINTS OUT, AS DO OTHER PAPERS, THAT OVER LAST FIFTEEN YEARS MOST MAJOR GUERRILLA ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE OVER THE SAME CARNIVAL PERIOD.

4. EL NACIONAL HAS SAME TYPE OF COVERAGE,WITH FRONTPAGE HEADLINE, AND BACK SECTION PAGES DEVOTED TO PHOTOS OF HOUSE, FAMILY, ETC. BACK PAGE, FINAL SECTION OF NACIONAL CARRIES BANNER HEAD: "PJF IDENTIFIES TWO OF THE KIDNAPPERS," ONE SUBHEAD READS: "BOTH ARE ON FILE FOR ASSAULT, BUT THE AUTH-ORITIES HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED THEM PUBLICLY AS YET." BODY OF STORY STATES TWO WERE IDENTIFIED BY MRS. NIEHOUS FROM THE MUG FILES OF THE PJT.

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5. TABLOID ULTIMAS NOTICIAS HEADLINES "TRIAL FOR AMERICAN AND NO RANSOM DEMAND....REVEALS DOCUMENT SENT TO AG AND DISIP. ACCUSES MULTINATIONAL OF POLITICAL MEDDLING." PAPER DEVOTES SEVERAL INSIDE PAGES TO STORY, WITH SLANT TOWARDS HUMAN INTEREST ASPECT WITH PHOTOS OF MRS. NIEHOUS AND CHILDREN AS WELL AS WORRIED NEIGHBORS. SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0004
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